

absorption spectrum at 3280cm^{-1} peculiar to polypeptide is not observed in a rubber film formed by using the treated natural rubber latex. Therefore, it has been found that decomposition and removal of the protein are highly achieved by the method described in the above publication.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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--From another point of view, the present inventors have made a trial of performing a decomposition treatment of a protein using a protease having an exopeptidase activity and a removing treatment of the protein and the protein decomposition product thereof, in addition to the decomposition treatment of the protein using a conventional alkali protease. As a result, they have surprisingly found a novel fact that the protein can be decomposed and removed to such a degree that the protein and the protein decomposition product, which have a number-average molecular weight $\langle M_n \rangle$ of 4500 or more do not substantially exist, thereby making it possible to obtain a deproteinized rubber latex which is less likely to cause allergy. Thus, the invention (II) of the above-described method of preparing a low allergic natural rubber latex has been completed.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A³
--In the method of preparing a deproteinized natural rubber latex of the present invention (II), it is preferred to remove the protein and the decomposition product thereof by a centrifugation treatment in view of the removing effect and the efficiency of the removing treatment.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 31, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A⁴
--(16) The method of preparing a deproteinized natural rubber latex described in the term (13), wherein the microorganisms which belong to the genus *Rhizopus* are microorganisms which belong to *Rhizopus oryzae*.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 37, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A⁵
--C. The method (III) of preparing a low allergic natural rubber latex of the present invention will be described.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 39, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The low allergic natural rubber of the present invention has a feature that it is obtained by performing a decomposition treatment of a protein by a protease having an exopeptidase activity. Surprisingly, the protein can be decomposed to such a degree that the protein and the protein decomposition product, which have a number-average molecular weight $\langle M_n \rangle$ of 4500 or more, do not substantially exist by performing a treatment using the protease.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 75, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--With respect to the analysis results of the number-average molecular weight $\langle M_n \rangle$ about the remained protein and protein decomposition product, the measurement results of samples obtained from the deproteinized natural rubber latex of Example 7 are shown in Fig. 5, the measurement results of samples obtained from the deproteinized natural rubber latex of Example 8 are shown in Fig. 7, the measurement results of samples obtained from the deproteinized natural rubber latex of Example 9 are shown in Fig. 6, the measurement results of samples obtained from the deproteinized

natural rubber latex of Example 10 are shown in Fig. 8, and the measurement results of samples obtained from the deproteinized natural rubber latex of Comparative Example 2 by a conventional treatment using an enzyme are shown in Fig. 3, respectively.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 75, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A⁸ --The molecular weight of control samples obtained from the HA latex, which has been subjected to neither protein decomposition treatment nor protein removing treatment, was analyzed. The measurement results are shown in Fig. 4.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 75, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A⁹ --As is apparent from the measurement results of the analysis of the molecular weight, in Comparative Example 2 (Fig. 3), a peak existed at the position (position corresponding to the existence of the protein) where the number-average molecular weight $\langle M_n \rangle$ is about 4700. To the contrary, in Example 7 (Fig. 5) and Example 9 (Fig. 6), a peak was not observed in the range where the number-average molecular weight $\langle M_n \rangle$ is about 2000 or more. In Example 8 (Fig. 7)